



Greetings AGRs!!

This is going to be last official newsletter I will be sending out to everyone. I have received my orders and will be moving to the great state of Utah effective 15 June 2002. I will truly miss working with all of you and hope that I will be able to say good-bye to as many of you in person until then. Wishing you all the best.

Retirement

MARCH

SFC Arnold Martinez, NADA
SFC Robert Drinovsky, 1/98th TC
SFC Todd Lowry, 2/180TH FA

APRIL

MSG Reynaldo Careaga, 2/180th FA
SSG Marcia Elliott, WAATS

JUNE

CW5 RC Smith, WAATS

JULY

LTC James Callahan, WAATS
SGM Larry Cook, HQ STARC
SFC Vincent Davis, 385TH AVN

AUGUST

SGM Robert Young, HQ STARC

SEPTEMBER

CW5 William Page, WAATS
CSM Robert Kimmell, HQ STARC
SFC Janet Pearson, HQ STARC

RESIGNATIONS

SSG Frank Insalaco, 91st CST
SGT Laura Apley, 153rd FA
SGT Andrew Trujillo, 1404th TC

UPDATE ON THE THRIFT SAVINGS PLAN

The Thrift Savings Plan (TSP) is a voluntary retirement savings and investment vehicle that is available to military members. Until this last year, it was available only to civilian federal government employees.

Features of the TSP:

- Tax-deferred investment
 - Before-tax savings
 - Payroll deduction
 - Loans
 - Transfers between funds
 - Two open seasons a year
- 60-day enrollment period for new military members

Enrollment:

Opens Enrollments:
May 15 – July 31 2002 and
November 15 – January 31 2003

<http://www.tsp.gov/uniserv/index.html>.



EMPLOYEE/MEMBER SELF SERVICE (EMSS)

EMSS is the wave of the future for processing military pay related actions for all soldiers. Currently, soldiers have the ability print their Leave and Earnings statement (LES), shut off delivery of the hardcopy LES, change federal taxes, change direct deposit information, and enroll in the TSP program. Additionally, soldiers have the ability to check on their travel payments. Future enhancements include allotment processing and the possibility of eliminating the paper LES. For this reason, it is essential that all soldiers have their PIN for EMSS. DFAS mailed PIN numbers to all soldiers some time ago. Unfortunately, some soldiers did not receive their PIN for one reason or another. If a soldier needs to get a new PIN, they must accomplish the following actions:

Fax (216 522-5800) or mail (DFAS-Cleveland/PMCAA ATTN: E/MSS, 1240 E. 9th St., Cleveland, OH 44199) the following information:

Name
SSN
Photocopy of ID
Daytime phone number
Signature

DFAS will issue a temporary PIN. Your new temporary PIN will be set to the last five numbers of your SSN. Please wait at least two business days before attempting to use your new temporary pin. Once on EMSS, change your temporary PIN to a PIN of your choice.

You can access the EMSS web site at <http://emss.dfas.mil/emss.htm>

DON'T DELAY UPDATE DEERS DATA TODAY!!

It is important to update your Defense Enrollment Eligibility Reporting System (DEERS) record to show any changes of address, family status such as marriage, divorce, birth or adoption, etc. (Remember: Each family member's eligibility is independent and must be updated.)

NOTE: If applicable, DEERS must also be updated to reflect your having MEDICARE Parts A/B and, when you turn 65, the medical section (EXP DATE) of your military ID card may need to be updated.

Home addresses are important because DEERS uses them to send out information on health benefits. Also, health benefits could be denied if DEERS is not updated to reflect new information.

You may update your DEERS address in several ways:

* Visit the DEERS website at:
<http://www.dmdc.osd.mil>

* Visit a local personnel office that has a Uniformed Services I.D. card facility. (Call ahead for hours of operation and for instructions if you are updating a record for someone who is housebound.) To locate the nearest military ID card facility visit <http://www.dmdc.osd.mil/rsl/>

* Call the Defense Manpower Data Center Support Office (DSO) Telephone Center at 800-538-9552. The best time to call the Telephone Center is between 0900 - 1500 (Pacific Time) Wednesday through Friday to avoid delays.

* Fax address changes to 831-655-8317.

* Mail the change information to the DSO, ATTN: COA, 400 Gigling Road, Seaside, CA, 93955-6771.

Other aspects of the DEERS record may be updated by sending appropriate documentation (such as marriage or death certificates) by mail or fax, or by visiting the nearest military ID card facility.

For additional questions regarding your DEERS record, call the DSO Telephone Center at 800-538-9552. The hours of operation are 0600 - 1530 (Pacific Time) Monday - Friday (excluding federal holidays).

SOURCE: TRICARE Web Site at
<http://www.tricare.osd.mil/DEERSAddress/>

CSB/REDUX ELIGIBILITY INFORMATION

You may be eligible to elect a Career Status Bonus (CSB) To be eligible you must:

- Be on active duty
- Complete 15 years of active duty service
- Have a DIEMS of August 1, 1986 or later, and
- Qualify under Service regulations for retention to 20 years of active duty service.

<http://www.odcsper.army.mil/retire> for more information

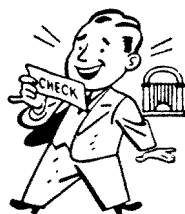
Uniserve website:
<http://www.tsp.gov/uniserv/index.html>

DOD Military Pay Website:
<http://pay2000.dtic.mil>
(changing to <http://militarypay.dtic.mil>)

AR-PERSCOM website:
<http://www.2xcitizen.usar.army.mil>

These websites provide implementing procedures for determining eligibility, notification, counseling, and election of the career status bonus (CSB)/REDUX retired pay option (CSB/REDUX) enacted by PL 106-65, 5 Oct 99.

Please contact the AGR office for more information to see if you are eligible.



MEDICAL TOLL FREE NUMBERS

Senior Pharmacy Program
1.877.DOD.MEDS (1.877.363.6337)
<http://www.tricare.osd.mil/pharmacy>

TRICARE For Life 1.888.DOD.LIFE
(1.888.363.5433)
<http://www.tricare.osd.mil/tfl>

TRICARE Prime Remote (TPR) (active duty and family members)
1.888.DOD.CARE (1.888.363.2273)
<http://www.tricare.osd.mil/remote>

TRICARE Retiree Dental Plan - Deltal Dental 1.888.838.8737

<http://www.tricare.osd.mil/tricare/beneficiary/supprog.html>

<http://www.ddpdelta.org>

TRICARE Dental Program (TDP) - United Concordia 1.800.866.8499

<http://www.tricare.osd.mil/tricare/beneficiary/supprog.html>

<http://www.ucci.com/tdp/tdp.html>
National Mail Order Pharmacy - Merck Medco 1.800.903.4680

<http://www.tricare.osd.mil/pharmacy/>

<http://www.merck-medco.com>

Defense Enrollment Eligibility Reporting Systems (DEERS) 1.800.538.9552
<http://www.tricare.osd.mil/DEERSAddress/>

Active Duty Claims (MMSO)
1.800.876.1131
<http://navymedicine.med.navy.mil/mmsos/>

TRICARE Claims Information

<http://www.tricare.osd.mil/claims/default.htm>

TRANSITION HEALTH CARE ELIGIBILITY UPDATE

On December 28, 2001, The 2002 National Defense Authorization Act, eliminated transitional health care eligibility for dependents of service members who are involuntarily separated under honorable conditions or who are separated after being called to or retained on active duty in support of a contingency operation. Previously, dependents of separated service members supporting contingency operations were entitled up to 30 days of transitional care and dependents of involuntarily separated service members were entitled to 60 days of transitional coverage if the member had been on active duty less than 6 years or 120 days of transitional coverage if the member had been on active duty for 6 years or more.

Dependents and departing service members could face undue financial hardships during this transition. Accordingly, OSD Health Affairs/TRICARE Management Activity is staffing a Worldwide TRICARE Demonstration Project on behalf of The Secretary of Defense to authorize covering the cost of transitional health care for the dependents of these separated service members. Therefore, under current law no transitional health benefits are provided to dependents of service members who are involuntarily separated under honorable conditions or who are separated after being called to or retained on active duty in support of a contingency operation. We will continue to monitor the developments of The Worldwide TRICARE Demonstration Project and advise of any changes to transitional health care eligibility.

POC for TRICARE: CMSgt John Vallario, ANG/DPFO, DSN: 327-5779 or MSgt Tammy Bump, ANG/DPFO, DSN: 327-1239 POC for The Worldwide TRICARE Demonstration Project: Maj Steve Wright, ANG/DPFP, DSN: 327-3251
<http://www.ucci.com/tdp/TDPBenefitBooklet.pdf>

NEW FEATURE ON UCCI WEBSITE

Visitors to United Concordia's website, www.ucci.com, can read detailed information about the TRICARE Dental Program (TDP), view a list of participating dentists, and even enroll online. But now there is even more information available at your fingertips. Sponsors and family members can use the internet to:

- Verify eligibility
- Get a listing of members covered under your contract
- Check the status of a claim
- Review a history of dental procedures submitted for each member
- Request a new ID card
- See the dollar amount applied to the annual maximum for the current contract period



USEFUL WEBSITES

Having problems finding a provider for your dependants. Check out the TRIWEST website at:

<http://www.triwest.com>

LAFB Locator (photo lab, commissary, etc.), also the site for medical and dental appointments and phone numbers:

http://www.enlisted.com/be/AZ_LUK E AFB /AZ_LUKE AFB .shtml

LAFB Patient Health Care Guide Handbook:

<http://www.luke.af.mil/56mg/PatientHandbook/IEDefault.htm>

Interested in a Title 10 position at National Guard Bureau. Look for the latest ARNG Title 10 AGR information on the NGB home page at:

<http://www.arng.ngb.army.mil>

**Click on the T under quick search and look for Title 10 positions and T-10 application procedures.

AZ FEDERAL CREDIT UNION MEMBERSHIPS FREE TO AZ ARNG/ANG MEMBERS

As a member of Arizona Federal, the credit union for the way you define service, you'll discover the ideal way to maintain your finances. From basic savings accounts to certificates and IRAs, Arizona Federal has savings and investment services that can boost your savings return.

Their checking account features no monthly or per-check charges, no minimum balance requirements, and best of all they pay you dividends on balances over \$1,000. By becoming a member you'll also have the option of Direct Deposit. Your pay is directly deposited into your account for your convenience and accessible immediately.

If you're interested in loan services, Arizona Federal has a flexible structure and competitive rates. 1st and 2nd mortgages are readily available as well as auto loans and student loans. Their Visa Classic and Visa Gold credit cards have low variable interest rates with no annual fees.

Accessing your Arizona Federal account is quick and easy. Besides the comprehensive ATM network and 15 branch locations, they provide services such as CU Online and TouchTone 24, convenient anytime Internet and telephone access to your account. Best of all you can share this benefit with your family and members of your household.

To start getting the most out of your employee benefits, visit Arizona Federal's

website at www.azfcu.org or call (602) 683-1000.

AGR HANDBOOK

If you are new to the AGR program or been around a while there is a lot of valuable information in the AGR Handbook, and it is available by email or it can be downloaded from the HRO website at www.az.ngb.army.mil/hro



AGR OFFICE PHONE LISTING

Our office symbol is AZAA-HR-A

Vacant

AGR Manager at 602-267-2485

SFC Judy Carlson (until 14 June)

AGR Personnel SGT at 602-267-2948

Tsgt Shannon Pena

Military Personnel Spec 602-267-2453



NATIONAL MILITARY APPRECIATION MONTH

May is National Military Appreciation Month each year. In 2002, with Americans in combat in Afghanistan and positioned to face terrorists around the world, it is even more apt to recognize the sacrifices American service members make for freedom.

A number of events and activities are planned across the country for citizens to show their appreciation to service members. There will also be a way to do that in cyberspace.

Folks who wish to show their appreciation may sign "America's Thank You Note" to the men and women serving in the military. "There are a lot of reasons to be appreciative of the military. This year, of course, there's even more," said David Jackson, editor of DefendAmerica.gov, a U.S. government Web site dedicated to reporting news about the global war against terrorism. The Thank You Note exists in cyberspace. Anyone with a computer can "sign" the card by going to <http://www.defendamerica.gov/> and following the instructions there. Visitors can type in a name, hometown and state and then click on a button to submit the greeting. When they do that, a message thanks them and adds, "Remember, it doesn't have to be Military Appreciation Month to thank a service member."

Persons without computers can enter DefendAmerica.gov at computer terminals in public libraries or other sites. One example of ways to expand the ability of Americans to thank service members for their sacrifices will be on display May 9-12 at Public Service Recognition Week activities on the National Mall in Washington, D.C. The department will set up a kiosk so people can visit the Web site and send their good wishes.

"We hope others will take this idea and run with it," said Allison Barber, special assistant to the assistant secretary of defense for public affairs. "My experience is that when we launch an initiative,

people around the country take it and make it bigger and better than what we could even hope for."

She suggests that companies, local governments, installations, schools and service organizations may want to link to the Thank You Card from their own Web sites.

America's Thank You Note will be available through May 31.



HAPPY MEMORIAL DAY